

**From:** Kevin M. Lowe  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 12:52pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

As a developer for Microsoft's technologies, servers, and client systems, I have reviewed with interest the proposed settlement. I understand that there have been a number of complaints, and wished to note that I find very little to be wrong with the settlement as proposed. In fact, its terms may actually damage developers by being too harsh (for example, III.C.3 allows for alternate interfaces of "similar size and shape" on Middleware; interface continuity is something very much relied on by developers,) or unnecessarily delaying Microsoft from fulfilling obligations related to the maintenance of their software (III.D, tying the release of a Service Pack - an endeavor regularly scheduled at a six-month interval and coming due in mid-April - to an effort to prepare internal documentation for external distribution that could conceivably delay the release of the Service Pack, including vital security fixes, by several months.)

I also disagree with the concept of allowing users to remove components of the operating system. Again, developers take for granted that certain portions of the system will be available, with their own unique API's. For example, the playback of digital media through an HTML document is accomplished using an ActiveX control (a link to a small program on a user's hard drive.) If said control is not in place, or if an OEM-approved replacement does not support Microsoft's API completely, such functionality might not work. Such components would have to be added to the redistributable package, increasing install package sizes in a time where high-speed internet is still disappointingly unavailable in many areas and decreasing the amount of available space on physical install media. Alternately, developers would have to detect and code for several major API's, severely adding to development time.

However, these complaints are insufficient for me to voice disapproval for the settlement, and as such I wish to voice my approval in contrast to the dissenting comments also received.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Lowe

